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Men, Books, People & Things by
Edgar Allan Poe
HOLULU HAWAII

Jack London being a lovable chap and devoid of conceit and bitterness of any sort, his friends are glad to hear good things said of him. Some such thing as we read in a recent New York Evening Post.

"Among all American authors who have gained popularity in Russia, Jack London undeniably holds the first place. The sales of his books have reached tremendous figures, and every new book of his pen is immediately translated by scores of publishers. There were attempts to compare London to Gorky, especially when the first translation of his works appeared. Some ground for this analogy may be found in London's autobiographical sketches where he describes his roamings in the country, his life among tramps, laborers and sailors. But no matter how contradictory critical opinion may be, it agrees that London's works are powerfully written, that they are full of life and have a captivating freshness.

"A mighty call to 'life for life's sake' was revealed in the Russian reader by London's writings, which were heartily recommended by even Tolstoy, who found in them the underlying principles of a sturdy morality."

In his "Phoenix" for January, the editor, our old friend Michael Monahan, has a just appreciation of the "Star-Rover," entitled "Jack London: Master."

"Into this book London has put the best of his matured powers; it has all his famous strength and virility, with artistic merits greater, finer than he has heretofore disclosed. I call this book great—a masterpiece because it has imagination, observation, invention, each in a most uncommon degree. The conception is of the boldest, fed and sustained by an intellectual vigor which is always capable of fresh efforts and surprises."

Several letters have reached me in regard to the reprint of my communication to Mr. Garfield now used as a campaign document.

I would say here that Mr. McCormick's suggestion that I go as a delegate to the Chicago convention was his own and made without consulting me.

While I may go from my own precinct to the Republican territorial convention in Honolulu, I have decided not to allow my name to go before that convention as a candidate for delegateship.

There are others who want to go worse. Personally and professionally, the trip would inconvenience me. Besides, I can be of more use unofficially.

My interest in this campaign is that of an American citizen in his country. It is absolutely disinterested. I haven't even a jack knife to grind. My remarks in this column about Kona's industries have excited some criticism.

I would say now that my affection for Kona has been demonstrated by my twelve-year residence here. Its scenery, climate and people are delightful; but I can't lie about the rest.

We are a poor district, not in possible resources, but in actual production. We have the best coffee in the world, but we are growing it at so small a profit that Americans cannot engage in the industry. We need protection. A two or three cent bonus on the berry would help us to the extent that we might be able to make a few other crops in Kona pay. One thing helps another.

Sugar likely, possibly honey, probably potatoes. But freight rates would have to come down. And those who own land would have to take less for it than they are asking. These changes would shift one class of farmers to another. We would have American farmers instead of Orientals.

In order that my dream for the leeward coast should be realized; that Kona be settled by prosperous, happy farmers enjoying the benefits of our climatic favors, I had hoped that even tobacco culture would prove a success.

If tobacco raising will give farmers something profitable to do here, whoop it up, I said, and say. But as yet there is no certain promise in that.

Fresh in our memory is Jared Smith's sacrifice, and other experiments have not been encouraging.

While recognizing that Kona is a district of unusual resources, let us acknowledge that, so far, we haven't any one industry we can recommend as an open sesame.

The gate is still shut to general enterprise. We want Congress to give us a legitimate boost. We ask for three cents placed upon a very important food product.

Without this help we are agriculturally unable to make a living in Kona.

That's why I'm not lying about a district I love the best in the world.

Boy Scouts of Hawaii in Action

WILMINGTON BOY WRITES TO SCOUT M'DOWELL HERE

"Lonesome Corner" in Boys' Life Brings Together Two Young Americans

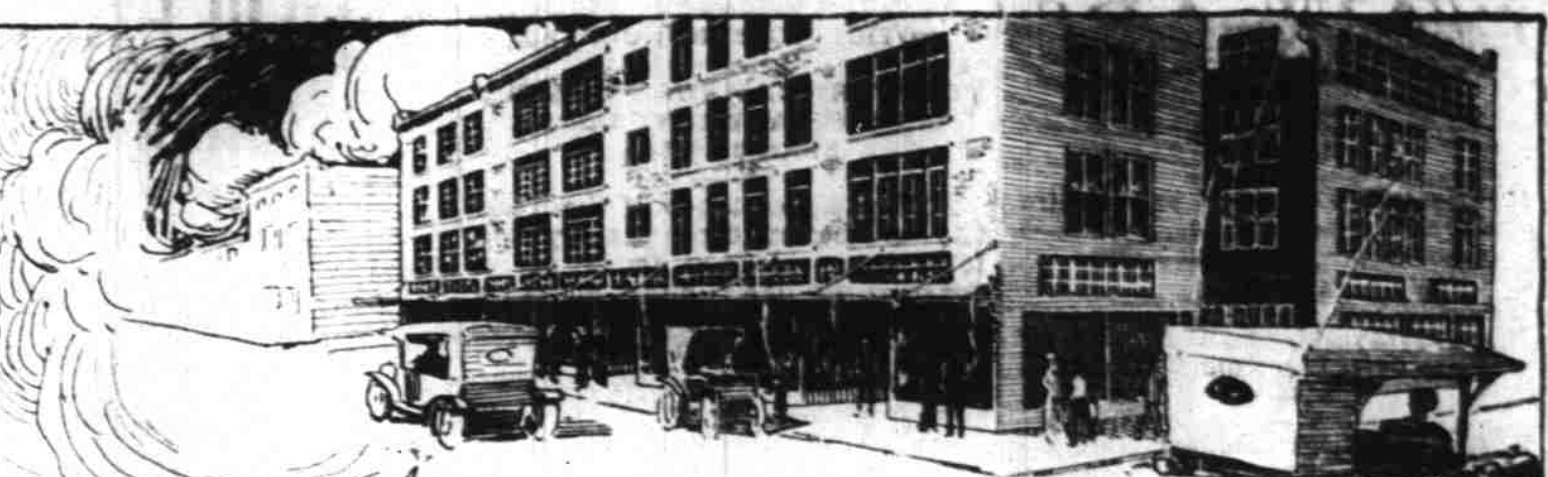
Here's a letter from one Boy Scout to another—from C. B. Lister of Wilmington, Del., to Roland McDowell of Honolulu. The letter tells how and why they are already great friends. Next week the Star-Bulletin will publish another of Lister's letters—by the way, the boys around Wilmington know him as "Pop."

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January 8, 1916.

Mr. Roland McDowell, Hawaii:
My Dear Friend: I saw in "Boys' Life" lonesome corner that you would like to have some one correspond with you, so I thought I would make the attempt. This is a new experience with me—corresponding with a fellow I never saw, and may never see—but I'll make a stab at it anyhow.

To begin with—my name is Baynard Lister. I'm 17 year old and a first-class scout; have been for about three years. My address is 915 North Clayton street, Wilmington, Del., or letters addressed in accordance with the above letter head will get me all right.

I would like very much to get a chance to get out to Hawaii some day, and maybe when "my ship comes in" I will. Were you ever in this country? I've heard that a good many of the people in your islands go out from the United States. If you were never here I expect I can tell



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a shelter at 50 yards. We have turkey shoots at Thanksgiving, merchandise shoots, etc. I think it would be great to get up a shoot between you fellows out there and our scouts here, that is if you people ever do any shooting, and I suppose you do. There is pretty good hunting in some parts of your islands, isn't there?

Well you'll understand that is a pretty hard matter to write a letter to a fellow when you don't know what interests him or anything about him, so if this first "missive" doesn't sound just right or isn't very interesting to you, just write back and let me know what you think of it and what you like to do and anything else that will help us to get acquainted and I guess we will manage to get together after while.

I don't know how the mails are between the United States and Hawaii, so I can't tell how long it will be before I hear from you, but I'll be looking for a reply within two weeks, so don't forget to write.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year, I am,
Very truly yours,
C. B. LISTER.

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We expect to see you in Honolulu June 11th